



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 30, 2001

GALE NORTON CONFIRMED AS INTERIOR SECRETARY

Bennett votes yes

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- Senator Bob Bennett (R-Utah), a member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior, today voted in favor of Gale A. Norton to serve as secretary of interior in the Bush Administration and issued the following statement:

"I am an enthusiastic supporter of Gale Norton. She understands that sound economic activity and proper reverence for our environment go hand in hand. She recognizes that if we do things in the name of preservation which damage our economy we undercut our ability to pay for environmental protection.

"Gale Norton is a westerner who has spent most of her life in public service as an effective advocate for the environment. Her achievements in defense of the environment are significant and include protecting our precious national parks and fairly enforcing the Endangered Species Act. She will not, as her critics claim, impinge upon our national commitment to preserve that which is wonderful about the environment, particularly the American West. Rather, she will successfully balance economic realities with environmental demands. Her stewardship will protect our natural treasures and enhance our public lands."

###